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WA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

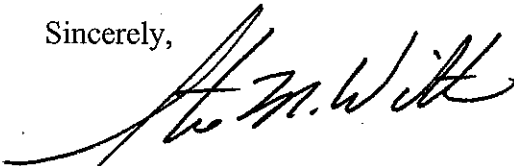
State Board of Health  
101 Israel Rd. SE  
P.O. Box 47990  
Olympia, WA 98504

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing you concerning what I see as a lack of proper disease reporting in Washington State. My wife Melissa died in February of this year, of a terrible disease called Creutzfeldt – Jakob Disease or (CJD). This disease progressed extremely rapidly and once symptoms surfaced, she died less than 3 months from date of onset. At this time there is no cure and very little research being done to find a cure for CJD. I feel this is in part to national statistics only showing one in a million people being affected by this horrific disease. Even one dying, is one too many in my mind. Especially after watching my wife Melissa a vibrant, professional woman, lose her ability to communicate or take care of herself. Each day brought about rapid changes in her effervescent personality, soon leaving her bed bound in a vegetative state, dependent on medication to maintain her breathing even unable to swallow near the end.

I understand I can not bring Melissa back, and that is not the reason I am writing to you. The reason I am writing to you is to ask for your support in helping to fight this dreadful disease. I am not sure if you are aware, but Washington State is one of 15 states that do not require mandatory reporting of this disease. I believe this is wrong and not the correct way to develop the proper national statistics to help fight this disease. I have done my homework and know the statistics and what is currently being done in this state and country concerning CJD. Bottom line; not enough. We can't bring my wife back, but we can make a change to our reporting procedures for this disease in Washington State. Melissa was a fighter for what she believed in, and she deserves for us to make this change. Please don't let her death from this appalling disease be in vain. I look forward to hearing from you soon concerning this issue.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Wilt  
6413 Wexford Ave. SW  
Port Orchard, WA 98367-9180